

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, April 12, 2016
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Jana called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

Present: Jana McGee, Dave Rollo, Gwen White, Bill Brown, Molly O'Donnell, Teddie Mower, Rebecca Swanson

Regrets: Gary Charbonneau, Jessica Pittman

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Alex Jorck, Citizens Climate Lobby

Public Comment: No public comment

Announcements:

Green Drinks is April 20, and there will be a presentation by Dave Parsons on capturing carbon in the soil.

The Indiana Forest Alliance is circulating a petition to forbid commercial logging in some state forests. Molly will share this.

The Hoosier to Hoosier Sale kicks off in May, and needs many volunteers the week of May 9-13.

May is Bikes Month. There will be a Women's Ride on May 5, and Bike to Work Day is May 20.

Teddie mentioned the new www.litterati.org website, which allows people to note the location and type of litter.

IU finished it's spring Energy Challenge. Overall savings are 177,237 kwh and 1,369,501 gallons of water. The Greek houses now have sustainability coordinators, and had an excellent showing this year.

The April 20 City Council meeting will review the Unified Development Ordinance, looking at historic buildings that trigger the Demolition Delay Ordinance. The decision will affect 6000 buildings included in the state SHAARD database. This has implications for environmental impact and housing affordability.

Approval of Minutes: The March 2016 minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation by Alex Jorck, Citizens Climate Lobby

Alex is the Indiana State Endorsement Coordinator for the Citizens Climate Lobby. This organization is an international effort to create the political will for a sustainable future. Specifically, they are focused on getting Congress to pass a carbon fee.

CCL is seeking endorsements at two levels. The first involves submitting a letter of support for Congress to take action on climate change. The second level involves endorsement of their carbon fee and dividend plan.

The CCL plan is revenue-neutral plan that would place a carbon fee as far upstream in the process as possible. That is, the fee would accrue to sales from a mine (not to a power plant), and would start at \$15/ton, and increase by \$10/year until a maximum is reached OR the US achieves a reduction goal. The accrued revenue would be split out evenly among households based on number of residents. Eventually, the decarbonization of the economy would result in this revenue stream disappearing.

Questions raised by members: how quickly could the economy realistically make this shift? Are there equity concerns with the impacts?

Alex will share the link to the economic study CCL had completed, and Jacqui will share with the commission.

Report from the Chair

The Environmental Commission has several working groups, and are open to having BCOS members attend these meetings. Committees include:

- Greenspace working group: focusing on National Wildlife Federation Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Looking to sell milkweed as part of this.
- City as Commons: developing city commons charter
- Food and Agriculture: setting up a food hub in Bloomington; potential visits to communities leading in this area.
- Hazards: focusing on PCBs, including a national study that is testing PCB levels in local residents
- Growth Policies Plan: working on wish list for the GPP
- Waste and Recycling: looking at economic feasibility of MRFs, composting, and expanding downtown recycling
- Water quality: Indy hosting National Stormwater Conference this summer. Also looking at greywater and stream buffers.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Sustainability on the city website:

Reducing waste and increasing outreach at the Farmers Market: Suggested partnership with internal team green to evaluate better management at Farmers Market and/or wider requirements for effective event waste management. Opportunities for Farmers Market to be used as a model for other local events.

One challenge is composting. Vendors are restricted from transporting compost in vehicles that are used to transport food. Bill mentioned that IU has been trying to develop more options, and would like to coordinate more with the city. Could compost be collected on site?

Invite BCOS members to the Team Green meeting to see if there is interest in working together.

Energy Challenge: We're up to 13 Workplace Partner Program, and have launched an Energy Leader program for residents.

Committee reports and updates

1. Environmental Commission Planning Committee: no report
2. Environmental Commission: no further report
3. Bring Your Bag Bloomington update: the group still feels like there is a need for education even though there is not a possibility of passing a ban or fee. Some members suggested buying bags for others, having repositories for unneeded reusable bags throughout the community. Dave will share the letter the council signed in opposition to SB 1053.

New Business: No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Next Meeting: May 10th, McCloskey Room, City Hall at 6:00 p.m.